

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3 and 5-11 will be pending in this application while claims 2 and 4 will have been canceled without prejudice to the subject matter therein. Claim 1 has been amended to include a portion of claim 4, thereby focusing and simplifying the issues for appeal. *See* MPEP §1206. As this language has been previously examined, the undersigned submits that no new issues are being raised.

As explained during the May 11, 2006, examiner interview, reconsideration and allowance is requested as none of the cited references disclose or suggest “two coaxial sleeves positioned in physical communication with the releasable implant retention region,” as previously recited in claim 4 and now recited in claim 1. For example, U.S. pat. no. 6,287,285 to Michal et al. (“Michal”), which is cited for allegedly disclosing this language, is directed towards providing a coating on a medical device; nowhere within it does it disclose or suggest the use of a sleeve, let alone two as recited in claim 1.

As to the March 7, 2006, Office action, which argues that the base coat (19) and top coat (20) from FIG. 2 of Michal are two coaxial sleeves, the undersigned submits that the coatings in Michal are not sleeves and cannot be equated to be sleeves. The noun sleeve is defined by the *American Heritage College Dictionary*, Third Edition and Dictionary.com as “a case into which an object or a device fits.” Comparatively, the coating in Michal is merely that, a coating. Moreover, it doesn’t have an independent shape. Considering the definition of sleeve, the coatings do not qualify as they are neither a case nor in any way sized to have the catheter fit within or removed from it.

As Michal and the other cited references do not disclose or suggest a sleeve, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is requested.


CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number given below.

Please charge any fees due, or any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 23, 2006



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